

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
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For Immediate Release

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Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on November 19, 2004, **ANDREW WELLS**, age 22, of Effingham County, Illinois, was sentenced to 180 months imprisonment, to be followed by 5 years' supervised release, and **KEVIN BARNFIELD**, age 25, formerly of Effingham County, was sentenced to 57 months imprisonment, to be followed by 3 years' supervised release. Both were charged with Conspiracy to Manufacture, Distribute and Possess with Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine. There is no parole in the federal system. The conspiracy operated in and around Effingham County, Illinois, from January 2001 through November 2003 when members of the conspiracy were arrested.

Other co-conspirators previously sentenced in the case include **TRAVIS TARRANT**, age 25, of Watson, Illinois (87 months' imprisonment), **SHAWN RUSSELL**, age 25, formerly of Effingham County, Illinois (192 months imprisonment), **SHAWN WOLFF**, age 30, of Effingham County, Illinois (135 months imprisonment), **THOMAS CURRY**, age 23, of Effingham County (96 months imprisonment), **CHARLES LOGSDON**, age 45, of Coles County, Illinois (134 months imprisonment), and **CASEY ARTERBURN**, age 21, of Effingham County, Illinois (120 months imprisonment), **DAMON SKAGGS**, age 24, formerly of Effingham County, Illinois (188 months imprisonment), and **TRAVIS ELAM**, age 30, of Watson, Illinois (240 months imprisonment).

The investigation which led to the prosecution of these defendants was conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Effingham County Sheriff's Department, the Effingham City Police Department, and other local law enforcement agencies, in cooperation with the Effingham County State's Attorney Edward Deters. The investigation was conducted as part of the Effingham County Project Safe Neighborhoods DRAGUN Team Initiative, a cooperative effort of local, state and federal law enforcement, and state and federal prosecuting authorities, aimed at ridding communities of drugs and guns. The prosecution was handled by Assistant United States Attorney Kit Morrissey.